

Appl. No. 10/677,579
Amtd. Dated Jul. 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Apr. 15, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): An electrical connector assembly, comprising:

an elongate insulative housing having a base portion, a plurality of passageways defined in the base portion, and an insulative insert in a rear end thereof;

a plurality of signal and grounding contacts each comprising a mating section extending beyond the insulative insert and received into a corresponding passageway of the housing, a connecting section remained in the insert, and a step section between the mating section and the connecting section and rendering the mating section higher than the connecting section;

a grounding bar assembled in the insert, the grounding bar having a plurality of grounding fingers electrically connecting with corresponding grounding contacts; and

a plurality of cables extending into the insulative insert and electrically soldered to the connecting sections.

Claim 2 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 1, wherein the cable comprises a plurality of high speed wires that are differential pairs electrically soldered to corresponding signal contacts.

Claim 3 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 1, wherein a pair of retention portions is formed at a pair of lateral ends of the base

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portion, and a pair of latch devices is pivotably mounted to the retention portions, each latch device having a latch portion for latching with a complementary connector and a tab engaging with the housing for resisting a pulling force acting on the each latch device from the complementary connector.

Claim 4 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 3, wherein each latch device portion has a body portion enclosing and securely assembled pivotably mounted on the a corresponding retention portion of the housing, and the engaging latch portion extends forwardly from the body portion.

Claim 5 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 1, further comprising a grounding plate having a plurality of grounding fingers and at least one grounding beam, said at least one grounding beam electrically contacting the grounding bar.

Claim 6 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 1, wherein the connector further comprising a shield enclosing the housing.

Claim 7 (original): The electrical connector assembly as described in claim 6, wherein the shield has a pair of side portions formed on a pair of lateral ends thereof, and each latch portion device has a spring tab extending from the body portion and abutting against the a corresponding side portion of the shield.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A method for making an electrical connector assembly comprising:

providing an elongate insulative housing having a base portion and a plurality of passageways defined in the base portion;

providing an insulative insert having a plurality of channels;

providing a plurality of signal and grounding contacts each having a

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connecting section retained in the channel, and a mating section extending beyond the insulative insert and a step section between the mating section and the connecting section and rendering the mating section higher than the connecting section;

providing a plurality of cables each having a conductor placed into the channel and connecting with the connecting section of the contact;

placing a plurality of solders into the channels;

heating the mating sections of the contacts so that the solders are melted and solder the connecting sections and the conductors together; and

assembling the insulative insert to the housing with the mating sections received into the passageways.

Claim 9 (original): The method of making the electrical connector assembly as described in claim 8, wherein the connector assembly further comprises a grounding bar assembled to the insulative insert, the grounding bar having a plurality of grounding fingers soldered to the connecting sections of the contacts.

Claim 10 (original): The method of making the electrical connector assembly as described in claim 8, wherein the connector assembly further comprises a shield enclosing the housing therein.

Claim 11 (original): An electrical connector assembly comprising:

an elongated insulative housing defining a base portion extending along a longitudinal direction thereof with a plurality of passageways therein;

a plurality of signal and grounding contacts disposed in the corresponding passageways, respectively;

a plurality of cables including inner conductors mechanically and electrically

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engaged with the corresponding signal contacts;

a grounding bar including a main portion extending along said longitudinal direction with a plurality of grounding fingers extending therefrom and mechanically and electrically engaged with the corresponding grounding contacts; and

a metallic shielding enclosing said housing and including resilient tabs mechanically and electrically engaged with the grounding bar.

Claim 12 (original): The assembly as described in claim 11, further including a grounding plate extending along said longitudinal direction and mechanically and electrically engaged with the grounding bar.

Claim 13 (original): The assembly as described in claim 12, wherein said grounding plate is located above the grounding bar while under the corresponding shielding.